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WESTERN WILDLIFE

a slide program showing the wildlife of our public lands

color photography by Jim Yoakum

U.S. Bureau of Land
WESTERN WILDLIFE A
SLIDE PROGRAM
SHOWING THE
WILDLIFE OF OUR

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LET'S TAKE A QUICK TRIP THROUGH THE WEST, TO VISIT SOME OF ITS WILDLIFE. MOST OF THESE ANIMALS WILL BE FAMILIAR TO YOU, AND IN THIS QUICK SURVEY WE WON'T GO INTO MUCH DETAIL ABOUT THEM. BUT MAYBE SEEING THEM AS A GROUP, IN THEIR NATURAL HOMES, YOU'LL GET AN IDEA OF THEIR SCOPE AND VARIETY ON OUR WESTERN LANDS.

1. MUCH OF THIS LAND--NEARLY 465 MILLION ACRES IN 11 WESTERN STATES AND ALASKA--IS CALLED "PUBLIC DOMAIN" AND IS MANAGED BY THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT. WHILE WILDLIFE IS REGULATED BY THE VARIOUS STATES, BLM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE ANIMALS LIVE. ABOUT THREE MILLION BIG GAME ANIMALS LIVE ON PUBLIC DOMAIN. WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE LANDS TO WILDLIFE GROWING, BLM HAS TO GIVE FULL ATTENTION TO WILDLIFE NEEDS AS IT MANAGES THE LAND FOR MANY USES--CATTLE, SHEEP, TIMBER, WATER CONSERVATION, AND THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

2. Desert Vista

EVERY ANIMAL DEPENDS ON THE LAND FOR FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER. ON OUR SOUTHWESTERN DESERTS, FOOD AND WATER ARE OFTEN HARD TO FIND, SO DESERT ANIMALS MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH WHAT IS AVAILABLE. BARREN AS IT MAY SEEM, THE DESERT IS HOME TO MANY WILDLIFE SPECIES.

3. Bobcat in Joshua Tree

THE WILY BOBCAT, FOR EXAMPLE, IS WELL ADAPTED TO DESERT LIFE. HE USES SPEED, AGILITY AND HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSES TO PREY ON SMALLER ANIMALS, SUCH AS THE DESERT'S BURROWING RODENTS. FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT

IN THIS JOSHUA TREE, HE'S ABLE TO KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR FOOD--AND DANGER.

4. Bobcat on Ground

THE BOBCAT IS ALSO CALLED A WILDCAT--BOBCAT BECAUSE OF THAT "BOBBED" TAIL. AT BIRTH, THIS CAT IS FULLY FURRED AND RESEMBLES A HOUSE KITTEN, BUT AS IT GROWS IT DEVELOPS SKILLS AND WEAPONS NEEDED FOR SURVIVAL IN THIS RUGGED HOMELAND. OF COURSE, WILDCATS LIVE IN SOUTHERN SWAMPS AND NORTHERN FORESTS AS WELL AS IN THE DESERT.

5. Mountain Lion

THE SMALLER CAT IS A RESTLESS WANDERER, BUT HE DOESN'T BEGIN TO COVER THE GROUND THIS MOUNTAIN LION DOES. LIKE THE BOBCAT, THIS MAGNIFICENT ANIMAL IS CALLED A PREDATOR BECAUSE IT EATS OTHER ANIMALS. BY DOING SO, IT HELPS KEEP WILD POPULATIONS FROM GROWING BEYOND THE ABILITY OF THE LAND TO SUPPORT THEM. A REAL VAGABOND IN THE DESERT REGIONS, A COUGAR SPANS MANY OTHER TYPES OF HABITAT, INCLUDING ROUGH WOODLANDS AND REMOTE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY. IT USED TO LIVE IN THE EAST, TOO, BUT A BIGGER PREDATOR--MAN--DESTROYED THE LION THERE.

6. Nelson Bighorn Sheep

UP ON THE DESERT'S ROCKIEST, STEEPEST MOUNTAIN SLOPES, THE COUGAR MAY SOMETIMES CROSS PATHS WITH A DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP. THIS GRACEFUL, SURE-FOOTED ANIMAL--A SMALL RELATIVE OF THE MORE POPULOUS ROCKY MOUNTAIN VARIETY--HAS BEEN DRIVEN INTO THE BACK COUNTRY BY CIVILIZATION. HERE THEY'VE HELD THEIR OWN, AND EVEN SHOW SIGNS OF INCREASING.

7. Sage Grouse Hen

NORTH OF THE SOUTHWESTERN DESERTS WE COME TO THE VAST SAGEBRUSH AREA--THE SEMI-ARID GREAT BASIN. HERE WE SEE A SAGE GROUSE HEN TIPTOEING ACROSS AN ALFALFA FIELD. ALSO CALLED A "SAGE HEN" OR A "SAGE CHICKEN", IT IS OUR LARGEST NATIVE GROUSE.

8. Sage Grouse Chick

THE HEN NESTS ON THE GROUND AND LAYS SPECKLED EGGS, LIKE THOSE OF TURKEYS. THIS LITTLE CHICK IS FAIRLY WELL PROTECTED FROM HUNGRY PREDATORS BECAUSE ITS COLORING BLENDS WITH THE BRUSH, MAKING IT HARD TO SPOT.

9. Golden Mantle Ground Squirrel

THE GOLDEN MANTLE GROUND SQUIRREL FINDS HIS LIVING QUARTERS UNDERGROUND OR UNDER ROCKS. GROUND SQUIRRELS ARE VEGETARIANS. THEY LIVE THROUGHOUT

THE WEST, WHEREVER WEEDS AND SHRUBS GROW TO PRODUCE THE SEEDS THEY RELISH.

10. Striped Skunk

THERE'S NO NEED TO DESCRIBE THE DEFENSE OF THIS FAMOUS (OR INFAMOUS) LITTLE FELLOW. THIS IS A STRIPED SKUNK, AND NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST WANTS TO INCUR HIS WRATH. HE'S NOT VERY AGGRESSIVE, THOUGH, AND HE'LL EAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, FROM ROOTS TO BIRDS' EGGS. THIS DIET ALLOWS HIM TO SETTLE ALMOST ANYWHERE IN THE WEST, BUT HE PREFERS FARM COUNTRY.

11. Buffalo Herd

WHEN THE WHITE MAN FIRST ARRIVED IN THE WEST, SOME 60 MILLION BISON ROAMED THE PLAINS IN HERDS SO HUGE THEY WOULD BLACKEN THE LANDSCAPE TO THE HORIZON. IN LESS THAN 40 YEARS, THIS GREAT ANIMAL WAS CLOSE TO BEING EXTINCT!

12. Buffalo Cluster

THE BUFFALO WAS SAVED FROM EXTINCTION, OF COURSE, AND A FEW SMALL HERDS EXIST TODAY UNDER SPECIAL PROTECTION. BUT THESE PROTECTED REMNANTS ARE GHOSTS OF WHAT ONCE WAS; THE BUFFALO REMAINS AS A REMINDER OF WHAT WAS ONCE OUR WESTERN WILDERNESS.

13. Jackrabbit

BUT CIVILIZATION WASN'T DISASTROUS TO ALL WILDLIFE. HERE'S THE EVER-PRESENT JACKRABBIT--HE OF THE LONG EARS--WHICH REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST ABUNDANT OF ALL WESTERN ANIMALS.

14. Antelope Herd

THE PRONGHORN ANTELOPE HAD STILL ANOTHER STORY. LIKE THE BISON, THESE SPEED BURNERS WERE NEARING EXTINCTION AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, BUT THEY WERE SAVED BY THE WORK OF CONSERVATIONISTS. THEY'VE COME BACK SO WELL THAT TODAY THEY RANK AS "NUMEROUS" IN MANY AREAS.

15. Antelope Kids

ANTELOPE KIDS ARE BORN IN THE SPRING--USUALLY AS TWINS, LIKE THIS PAIR. IN JUST A FEW DAYS THEY'RE READY TO TRY OUT THEIR GREATEST TALENT--RUNNING.

16. Antelope Buck

THIS BUCK WAS CAUGHT IN A MOMENT OF LEISURE, AND HE DISPLAYS THE PRONGED HORNS THAT GIVE HIS SPECIES ITS NAME. THE PRONGHORN IS A FINE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WESTERN PLAINS. HE IS FOUND NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. HERE HE HAS THE OPEN SPACES HIS NATURE REQUIRES.

17. Coyote Pup

OF COURSE, THE PLAINS ARE ALSO HOME TO PROWLING PREDATORS WHICH PREY ON ANTELOPE AND OTHER ANIMALS. LIKE THIS ONE. NO, THIS ISN'T A HOUSE PET OR A STRAY DOG PUP. HE'S A COYOTE PUP...

18. Adult Coyote

...AND IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE LOOKS LIKE THIS. THE POINTED NOSE GIVES HIM A CUNNING LOOK, AND IN THIS CASE, LOOKS AREN'T TOO DECEIVING. COYOTES HAVE ENORMOUS APPETITES, AND THEY HAVE TO BE CLEVER AND ADAPTABLE TO FEED THEMSELVES. IN SPITE OF BEING PERSECUTED AS "VARMINTS", THEY HAVE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH CIVILIZATION, AND EVEN THRIVE.

19. Plains Vista

WHERE THE RAINFALL BECOMES HEAVIER, THE PLAINS GIVE WAY TO FORESTS. THERE'S NO CLEAR DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE TWO--IN BETWEEN ARE OVERLAPPING WOODLAND AREAS WITH CHARACTERISTICS OF BOTH.

20. Mule Deer Fawns

AND THE BRUSHY FOOTHILLS ARE MULE DEER COUNTRY. THESE TWIN FAWNS WERE BORN IN THE SPRING. BY FALL THEIR SPOTS WILL DISAPPEAR AND THEY'LL JOIN THE HERD. MULE DEER ARE THE MOST NUMEROUS AND POPULAR BIG GAME ANIMAL IN THE WEST. THEY MIGRATE TO MANY LOCATIONS THROUGH THE YEAR--MOUNTAINS IN SUMMER AND LOWER DOWN IN WINTER--AND MUCH OF THIS LAND IS PUBLIC DOMAIN. CLOSE TO TWO MILLION DEER USE THE PUBLIC LANDS EACH YEAR.

21. Young Buck

DEER GROW UP FAST. THIS YOUNG BUCK, ABOUT SIX MONTHS OLD, HAS ALREADY LOST HIS SPOTS. WITH LUCK, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE BECOMES A FINE SPECIMEN...

22. Adult Buck

...LIKE THIS ONE. THIS BUCK SHEDS HIS REGAL ANTLERS ANNUALLY, BUT EACH YEAR THEY GROW BACK TO MAKE HIM A PRIZE FOR HUNTERS AND STRONG OPPONENT DURING THE FALL MATING BATTLES. DEER HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES THEIR NUMBERS ARE BECOMING A PROBLEM IN MANY AREAS.

23. Raccoon

BRUSHLANDS AND FORESTS ARE HOME TO MANY SMALLER CREATURES, TOO; SUCH AS RACCOONS...

24. Cottontail

...AND COTTONTAIL RABBITS, WHICH CAN BE SEEN SCURRYING THROUGH THE VEGETATION JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE...

25. Yellowbellied Marmot

...AND YELLOWBELLIED MARMOTS, LIKE THIS YEARLING. HE'S A MEMBER OF THE GROUND SQUIRREL FAMILY, AND IS OFTEN CALLED A "ROCK WHISTLER" OR "ROCK CHUCK", BECAUSE HE LIVES IN THE ROCKS THROUGH MOST OF THE WESTERN RANGES.

26. Robin

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THAT BIRDS, SUCH AS THIS ROBIN, ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES.

27. Rufus Hummingbird Chicks

HERE ARE RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD CHICKS IN THEIR NEST. THEY'LL SOON FLY OUT ON THEIR OWN TO ADD A SPARK OF COLOR TO THE SCENE.

28. Great Horned Owl

THE OWL HAS HIS OWN CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE; NOT ONLY IS THIS GREAT HORNED OWL A LARGE AND INTERESTING BIRD, BUT HE PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN KEEPING RODENT POPULATIONS IN CHECK.

29. Weasel

SO DOES THE WEASEL, WHICH POUND FOR POUND IS ONE OF THE MEANEST SCRAPPERS IN NATURE'S KINGDOM. AND SO WE REMEMBER THAT EACH SPECIES IS IMPORTANT TO THE BALANCE AND STABILITY OF ITS NATURAL COMMUNITY.

30. Black Bear Cub

THE WESTERN FORESTS ARE STILL "BEAR COUNTRY". THE GREAT GRIZZLIES STILL LIVE IN ALASKA, THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN ALL BUT ELIMINATED SOUTH OF CANADA. BUT BLACK BEARS, SUCH AS THIS LITTLE CUB, STILL ABOUND. THEY'VE MANAGED TO ADAPT TO MAN'S INTRUSION.

31. Black Bear Adult

WHEN THE CUB GROWS UP HE'LL LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS. THE SMALLEST OF OUR BRUINS, BLACK BEARS MAY BE BLACK, CINNAMON OR EVEN BLONDE.

32. Red Fox

THE RED FOX IS ANOTHER FOREST CREATURE THAT HAS LEARNED TO LIVE WITH MAN. IN FACT, HE PREFERS FARM AREAS, WHERE HE CAUSES SOME TROUBLE. BUT ON THE WHOLE, HE'S GRADUALLY BEING ACCEPTED AS A USEFUL CHAP TO HAVE AROUND.

33. Timber Wolf

NOT SO THE TIMBER WOLF. LIKE THE GRIZZLY, HE IS ALMOST EXTINCT SOUTH OF CANADA. HIS SIZE, PACK-HUNTING HABITS AND, MOST OF ALL, HIS FEARSOME REPUTATION MADE HIM A VICTIM OF CIVILIZATION. BUT HIS PASSING HAS TAKEN MUCH COLOR AND ADVENTURE FROM THE WESTERN SCENE.

34. Yearling Cow Elk

IF YOU'RE EVER IN THE RAIN FOREST OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND YOU HEAR A LOUD BUGLE CALL, IT WON'T MEAN A MILITARY INVASION BUT AN OLYMPIC BULL ELK CALLING FOR HIS MATE. AND THIS DEMURE COW MIGHT BE THE OBJECT OF HIS TRUMPETING.

35. Bull Elk

HERE ARE A COUPLE OF THE SUITORS IN A MORE CASUAL

MOOD. THE AMERICAN ELK, ALSO CALLED WAPITI, ONCE RANGED FARTHER THAN ANY OTHER HOOFED MAMMAL ON THE CONTINENT. NOW THEY ARE CONFINED TO LIMITED FOREST LOCALES IN THE WEST.

36. Ptarmigan

LET'S MOVE FURTHER NORTH, UP TO ALASKA. HERE WE SEE THE REGION'S MOST POPULOUS UPLAND GAME BIRD, THE PTARMIGAN GROUSE. LIKE MANY OTHER ARCTIC ANIMALS, THE PTARMIGAN WILL TURN TO A SNOWY WHITE WHEN WINTER ARRIVES. IT ALSO LIVES IN HIGH MOUNTAINS OF THE WEST.

37. Bull Moose

THESE BULL MOOSE MAY NOT LOOK TOO REGAL, BUT DURING THE AUTUMN MATING SEASON THEY'RE KINGS OF THE ALASKAN WILDS. WITH BULLS AVERAGING NEARLY A TON, THE MOOSE IS THE LARGEST MEMBER OF THE DEER FAMILY. THEIR RIDICULOUS-LOOKING MUZZLES HELP THEM GET UNDERWATER PLANTS, AND EVEN WITH AN AWKWARD GAIT THEY'RE SWIFT AND POWERFUL RUNNERS.

38. Woodland Stream

WATERWAYS ARE A VITAL PART OF THE WILDS. MOST FORMS OF ANIMAL LIFE CONGREGATE AROUND WATER. THE QUIET LAKES AND RUSHING STREAMS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS

PROVIDE DRINKING WATER FOR WILDLIFE, HOMES FOR FISH, AND PLEASURE FOR PEOPLE. EACH TYPE OF WATER-WAY SUPPORTS ITS OWN PARTICULAR TYPE OF ANIMAL COMMUNITY.

39. Silver Salmon Fingerlings

SALMON ARE AMONG THE MOST INTERESTING OF INLAND FISH SPECIES. THEY SHOW THAT YOU CAN'T ALWAYS MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN FRESHWATER AND OCEAN SPECIES. SALMON ARE BOTH. THESE SILVER SALMON FINGERLINGS, HATCHED IN A MOUNTAIN STREAM, ARE MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE SEA, WHERE THEY'LL SPEND MOST OF THEIR DAYS.

40. Red Salmon

BUT THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE SALMON BRINGS IT BACK IN-LAND, TO THE SAME STREAM IN WHICH IT WAS SPAWNED. THIS RED SALMON WILL FIGHT ITS WAY UPSTREAM TO THE SPAWNING GROUNDS AND THEN, HAVING GIVEN BIRTH TO A NEW GENERATION, WILL DIE.

41. Largemouth Bass

PERHAPS THE MOST POPULAR GAME FISH IN THE UNITED STATES IS THE LARGEMOUTH BASS. THESE WIDELY-SPREAD, WIDELY-SOUGHT FISH PREFER THE RELATIVELY WARM WATERS OF SHALLOW LAKES AND SLOW-MOVING STREAMS.

42. 2 Mallard Ducks

NOT ALL WATER LIFE GOES ON BENEATH THE SURFACE. THIS BLISSFUL PAIR OF MALLARD DUCKS FLEW HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM THE NORTH TO WINTER ON THIS POND. THE BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHTLY-COLORED ONE IS THE MALE.

43. 3 Mallard Ducks

THE MOTTLED BROWN COLORING OF THE FEMALE MALLARDS PROTECT THEM WHEN THEY SIT ON THEIR NESTS IN CAT-TAILS AND RUSHES.

44. Canada Goose Goslings

THESE ARE CANADA GOSLINGS, SO RECENTLY HATCHED THAT AN EGGSHELL IS STILL IN THE NEST. CANADA GEESE ARE AMONG THE LARGEST WATERFOWL IN NORTH AMERICA.

45. Adult Canada Geese

SOME DAY THE GOSLINGS WILL LOOK LIKE THIS. THESE ADULT CANADA GEESE ARE NOT STRANDED ON LAND, AS IT MAY SEEM, BUT THE PICTURE DOES POINT UP THE NEED FOR MAINTAINING WATERWAYS IN A CLEAN CONDITION. WATER-FOWL HAVE SUFFERED FROM A SHRINKING WATER HABITAT, AND AS THEY DIMINISH OUR WILDLIFE HERITAGE GROWS POORER.

46. Trumpeter Swans

THE ELEGANT TRUMPETER SWAN IS A DRASTIC CASE IN POINT. THIS SPECIES HAS BEEN ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION FOR MANY DECADES, THOUGH RIGID PROTECTION HAS BEEN INCREASING ITS NUMBERS.

47. Young Beaver

BEAVER ARE AT HOME ON LAND OR WATER. THEY ARE GENERALLY BORN AS TWINS AND, AS THESE TWO SHOW, SOON LOOK MUCH LIKE THE ADULT. THE BEAVER'S FLAT TAIL SERVES AS A RUDDER, AND IS USED TO SLAP THE WATER AS A DANGER SIGNAL.

48. Adult Beaver

BUT FROLICKING ENDS AT AN EARLY AGE. WEATHER IS ONE FACT OF LIFE THAT THE BEAVER, LIKE ALL LIFE, MUST FACE. BEAVERS CONSTRUCT LEAKY DAMS TO FORM PONDS WHERE THEY BUILD THEIR HOUSES. TREE BARK IS THEIR MAIN FOOD.

49. Road Mapping

AS THE LAND COMES UNDER INTENSIVE USE, THE JOB OF WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT BECOMES MORE AND MORE COMPLEX. THESE BLM MEN ARE MAPPING AN ACCESS ROUTE, WHICH WILL HELP RECREATIONISTS TO ENJOY THEIR PUBLIC LANDS.

OTHER BLM PROJECTS, SUCH AS WATER DEVELOPMENTS, RANGE RESEEDINGS, AND IMPROVED LAND USE PATTERNS BENEFIT WILDLIFE.

50. Hand Touching Bitterbrush Seedling

THIS IS A SMALL BITTERBRUSH PLANT--A FAVORITE DEER FOOD. SINCE WE'VE DISRUPTED THE NATURAL HABITATS OF MOST OF OUR WILDLIFE SPECIES, WE NOW HAVE TO WORK TO SUPPLY THEIR NEEDS. IT'S A JOB FOR ALL OF US TO PERPETUATE THE ANIMALS FOR GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS TO COME.

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RALPH HERBERT, % SE, CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

July 24, 1964

Memorandum

To: All RUS's

From: Information Officer

Subject: Western Wildlife Slide Series

Enclosed is an adaptation of the script for the Western Wildlife Slide Series for use in elementary schools. This narrative was prepared by Miss Irma Sullivan, an elementary school teacher in Oregon, and edited by Bob Hostetter. It has been checked technically here by Robert Smith.

We feel that Miss Sullivan has submitted an excellent suggestion, and unquestionably having a script aimed at the elementary school level will give us a wider understanding of the series at a lower grade level.

We suggest that all present holders of the slide series be given this version of the script, and in the future, both scripts should be included with the series when distributed.

Dan Gaultz

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D. C.

May 26, 1964

WESTERN WILDLIFE

A Slide Program Showing the Wildlife
of Our Public Lands

Produced by

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Color Photography by
Jim Yoakum, BLM Wildlife Specialist, Nevada

(Script for Elementary Grades)

1. WESTERN WILDLIFE.

We are about to take a quick trip through the West, to visit some of its wildlife residents. Many of these animals, fish, and birds will be familiar to you. Here you will see them in their natural surroundings.

Much of the land in the West is managed by the Bureau of Land Management--a part of the U. S. Department of the Interior. The birds, fish, and animals themselves are under the control of the various states, but the Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the land where they live. BLM carefully considers the needs of wildlife when managing the land for all purposes--including growing grass for cattle, sheep, and horses; growing crops of trees for lumber, plywood, paper and other products; minerals for many uses; and the opportunity for camping, picnicking, and other kinds of outdoor recreation.

2. DESERT VIEW.

Every kind of animal depends upon the land for food, water, and shelter. On the desert these are difficult to find, so desert animals must learn to live with what is available. Even though the desert looks bare many animals make their homes there.

3. BOBCAT IN JOSHUA TREE.

This desert bobcat, for example, is well fitted to desert life. He uses speed, and highly developed senses of sight, hearing, and smell to catch small burrowing rodents. Here in the Joshua tree he is able to see everything that happens in his vicinity.

4. BOBCAT ON GROUND.

The bobcat is also called a wildcat. The name bobcat comes from his little bobbed tail. At birth, he has a full coat of fur, and looks like a house kitten, but when he grows up he becomes quite fierce, and his sharp claws and teeth become very effective weapons.

5. MOUNTAIN LION.

The bobcat is a restless wanderer, but he doesn't begin to cover the ground that this mountain lion does. These two members of the cat family are called predators, because they prey upon other animals and serve to keep the animal population in check. They are a part of nature which helps keep a balance between the animal population and the amount of food the land will produce for them. This mountain lion, or cougar, also lives in rough woodlands and remote mountain country.

6. NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP.

Up on the desert's rockiest, steepest mountain slopes, the cougar may cross paths with the desert bighorn sheep. This is a graceful, surefooted animal that has been driven to the back country by civilization. Bighorns are beginning to show an increase in numbers today.

7. SAGE GROUSE HEN.

The sage grouse hen lives in those dry areas where sagebrush grows. They are sometimes called sage hen, or sage chicken. It is the largest grouse native to America.

8. SAGE GROUSE CHICK.

The hen lays her eggs in a nest on the ground. The eggs are speckled something like those of a turkey. This little chick is fairly well protected from hawks or coyotes, because its coloring blends in with the brush, making it difficult to be seen.

9. GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL.

Golden-mantled ground squirrels find hiding places under rocks. Ground squirrels are vegetarians, and live throughout the West wherever plants and shrubs grow to produce seeds for their food.

10. STRIPED SKUNK.

There's no need to describe the defenses of this famous little fellow. This is a striped skunk, and neither man nor beast wants to make him angry. He eats just about anything, from roots to bird's eggs. He can live just

about anywhere in the West, but he prefers farm country.

11. BUFFALO HERD.

When white men first arrived in the West, so many bison, or buffalo, roamed the plains that the herds would blacken the landscape to the horizon. Less than 40 years ago this animal was close to being extinct, but fortunately was saved from extinction.

12. BUFFALO HERD.

Several herds exist today under special protection. They are a reminder that civilization has an important effect on wildlife.

13. JACKRABBIT.

Here is one animal that civilization hasn't affected very much. The long-eared jackrabbit is one of the West's most abundant animals.

14. ANTELOPE HERD.

Like the buffalo, the pronghorn antelope was near extinction at the turn of the century. They were saved by conservationists, and have made such a successful comeback that today they are one of the most numerous big game animals.

15. ANTELOPE KID.

Antelope kids are born in the spring--usually as twins, like this pair. In a few days they are ready to show their skill at running.

16. ANTELOPE BUCK.

This buck displays the horns that give him his name. The pronghorn is found nowhere else in the world, and in the West he finds the open spaces he requires.

17. COYOTE PUP

Of course, the plains are also the home of such predatory animals as this. No, this isn't a pet, this is a coyote pup...

18. ADULT COYOTE.

...and it won't be long before he looks like this. His pointed nose gives him a cunning look. Coyotes have enormous appetites, and they have to be very clever to feed themselves. In spite of being hunted as "varmints," they have learned to live throughout the West in spite of the advance of civilization.

19. PLAINS VIEW

Where the rainfall becomes heavier, the plains give way to forests. There is no clear dividing line; the edges blend together and some of the characteristics of each intermingle.

20. MULE DEER FAWN.

The brushy foothills are mule deer country. These twins were born in the spring, and by fall their spots will disappear. Mule deer are the most numerous and popular big game animals in the West. They migrate to many different locations during the year. Much of their food is found on

publicly owned land--in the mountains during the summer, and lower down in winter. Nearly two million deer use our public lands during the year.

21. YOUNG BUCK.

Deer grow up fast. This young buck is about six months old, and has already lost his spots. In several years he will have a fine set of antlers...

22. ADULT BUCK.

...like this. This buck sheds his antlers annually, but each year they grow back to identify him as a prize for hunters. Deer have become so numerous in the past few years that they are becoming a problem in many areas. They eat forage needed for livestock and damage young trees needed for timber crops.

23. RACCOON.

Brushlands and forests are home to many smaller creatures too, such as this raccoon...

24. COTTONTAIL.

...and cottontail rabbits, which can be seen scurrying through the brush just about anywhere.

25. YELLOWBELLY MARMOT.

This yellowbelly marmot is a member of the ground squirrel family, and is often called a rock whistler or rock chuck. He lives among the rocks in

most of the mountain ranges of the West.

26. ROBIN.

And let's not forget that birds, such as this robin, are also members of the wildlife community.

27. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD CHICKS.

Here are rufous hummingbird chicks in their nest. They'll soon fly out to add sparks of color to the outdoor scene.

28. GREAT HORNED OWL.

This great horned owl not only is a large and interesting bird, but he has a big job keeping rodents under control.

29. WEASEL.

And so does the weasel, which is one of the toughest scrappers in nature's kingdom. Each species is important to the balance and stability of the wildlife community.

30. BLACK BEAR CUB.

The western forests are the home of black bears. Cubs weigh less than a pound when they are born. Black bears are numerous in the West, but their larger cousins, grizzly bears, live only in a few remote areas.

31. BLACK BEAR ADULT.

When the cub grows up he will probably look something like this. Bears of

this kind may be black, brown, cinnamon, or even blond. Although bears become accustomed to people in parks, they are still dangerous wild animals.

32. RED FOX.

The red fox is another forest creature that has learned to live with men. In fact, he prefers farming areas.

33. TIMBER WOLF.

Like the grizzly, this great timber wolf is practically extinct south of Canada. Because of his size and his habit of hunting in packs, man has not found him a good neighbor. His passing has taken some of the color and adventure from the West.

34. YEARLING COW ELK.

This is a young cow elk. Roosevelt elk are found along the coast in the Pacific Northwest while the American elk or wapiti is found elsewhere in the West.

35. BULL ELK.

Here are two bull elk in a grassy area of the forest. Elk once ranged farther than any other hoofed animal on the continent. They were once common in the Midwest.

36. PTARMIGAN.

In Alaska, the ptarmigan grouse is a common game bird. Like many other Arctic animals, the ptarmigan will turn a snowy white when winter arrives.

Ptarmigans also live in high mountains of the West.

37. BULL MOOSE.

These bull moose are the largest of the deer family, and weigh nearly a ton each. Their long heads are suited for getting underwater plants. In spite of their awkward appearance, they can run swiftly.

38. WOODLAND STREAM.

Streams provide drinking water for birds and animals and a place where fish can live. The many cool streams and quiet lakes on the public lands provide essential needs for wildlife and enjoyment for people.

39. SILVER SALMON FINGERLINGS.

Salmon are interesting fish because of their travels. These small silver salmon were hatched in fresh water of a mountain stream and making their way to the sea where they will spend most of their days.

40. RED SALMON.

The life cycle of the salmon brings it back from the sea to the same stream in which it was spawned. This red salmon will fight its way upstream to the spawning grounds and then, having given birth to a new generation, will die.

41. LARGEMOUTH BASS.

Among the most popular game fish in the United States is the bass. Largemouth bass such as these prefer the warmer waters of shallow lakes and slow moving streams.

42. TWO MALLARD DUCKS.

This pair of mallard ducks might have flown hundreds of miles from the north to winter on this pond. The beautiful, brightly colored one is the drake.

43. THREE MALLARD DUCKS.

The mottled brown coloring of the female ducks protects them while they are sitting on their nests in the cattails and rushes.

44. CANADA GOOSE GOSLINGS.

These are Canada goose goslings, so recently hatched that some eggshells are still in the nest.

45. ADULT CANADA GEESE.

Someday the goslings will look like this. Canada geese are among the largest birds in North America.

46. TRUMPETER SWANS.

The number of trumpeter swans has been small for many years, but they have been carefully protected and the number has increased in recent years.

47. YOUNG BEAVER.

Beaver are equally at home on land and water. Thay are generally born as twins, and soon look much like their parents. The beaver's flat tail serves as a rudder in the water and can be used to slap the water as a danger warning.

48. ADULT BEAVER.

Beaver eat the bark of aspen, willow, and other trees. They build dams to form ponds where they build their houses with doors under water. If food becomes scarce they must travel farther, sometimes in the snow, to find a new supply.

49. MAPPING ROAD.

These BLM men are mapping a road which will help hunters, fishermen, and others to enjoy their public lands. Land management work, such as reseeding range land to better grass and providing water, helps wildlife.

50. BITTERBRUSH SEEDLING.

This is a small bitterbrush plant. It is a favorite food of deer. People now use the land which once was the home of wildlife, so now it is necessary for people to be sure that food is available for wildlife. The Bureau of Land Management helps take care of wildlife, and BLM also manages other resources--forest, rangeland, water, minerals, and opportunities for public recreation.

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